## REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this Application. All of these claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Äström patent 5,752,188. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The differences between the present invention and Äström are set out in Applicants' specification. The essence of Äström is set out in paragraph 0006 on page 3 of the present application. Applicant's invention is described and claimed on the succeeding pages of the application, distinguishing the invention from the applied reference.

To further explain and emphasize those differences, Äström discloses a process for information exchange with the involvement of a mobile communications network, wherein an exchange of information takes place between the information flows inside the GSM mobile communications network and a dedicated network, and information elements of the standardized USSD signaling protocol of the mobile communications network are used. The USSD messages are transmitted under demand of the usual network elements such as MSC, VLR, HLR, among others, to the external nodes. USSD processing mechanisms are provided in the network elements which control the forwarding of the USSD messages.

In contrast to Äström, the present invention has a purpose to avoid an extensive use of network elements of the mobile communication network, as far as possible, and to thus preserve existing network resources. According to Applicants' invention, this purpose results from the fact that the information elements are not relayed transparently at suitable interfaces in the mobile communication network, but instead are filtered out from the signaling by a filter method and transferred to the dedicated network. Information elements coming from the dedicated network are inserted into the signaling of the mobile communication network.

A coupling device is provided by Applicants' invention which includes means for directly or indirectly selecting information elements from the information flow of the mobile communication network in a controlled manner, or for replacing corresponding elements of the information flow of the mobile communication network.

In other words, the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application differs from Äström's process for information exchange between a mobile communications network and a dedicated network at least for the fact that the relevant information elements of Applicants' invention are filtered out at suitable interfaces in the mobile communications network without having to pass through all the network elements of the mobile communications network and thus overload the network elements.

More particularly, Äström fails to disclose several limitations of method claim 1. For example, Äström does not disclose a "method of controlling installations and/or processes in which parts of an existing mobile communication network are used." Äström does not disclose that "the respective information elements are not relayed transparently at suitable interfaces in the mobile communication network." Instead, the respective information elements "are filtered out of the signaling by a filter method and are transferred to the dedicated network, wherein the information elements coming from the dedicated network are inserted into the signaling" of the mobile communication network.

Thus, claim 1 clearly defines invention over Äström for the several reasons established above.

Claims 2-29 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons. More particularly, with respect to claim 2, for example, and with specific regard to that portion of the reference cited by the Examiner, Äström fails to teach that an "exchange of information takes place by inserting response signals in form of information elements into the mobile communication signaling." Äström only teaches USSD signaling.

The invention is also the subject of system claims 30 and 31. The system comprises "parts of an existing mobile communication network being used for the transmission of the respective data." Äström does not respond to this limitation of claim 30, as has already been pointed out with respect to claim 1. Further, the cited reference does not disclose a coupling device which "has devices which can directly or indirectly select information elements from the information flow of the mobile communication network in a controlled manner," or which "can directly or indirectly insert information elements into the information flow of the mobile communication network in a controlled manner or it can replace corresponding elements of the information flow of the mobile communication network."

These distinctions have already been pointed out and discussed above with respect to claim 1. There is nothing in Äström which meets these limitations of claim 30. Claim 31 depends from claim 30 and is believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicants believe all the claims in this application define the invention over the prior art and are patentable. Reconsideration is requested. Should any issues remain unresolved, Ms. Contee is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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